



24th Year, 1st Issue
March 2006

632 Versailles Road
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 573-2604 V/TTY
(800) 372-2907 V/TTY
(502) 573-3594 FAX
www.kcdhh.ky.gov

“
*Deaf and hard of
hearing people must
become the authors
of their own destiny.*
”

In This Issue...

Bobbie Beth's Tidbits	1
Chairperson's Article	2
DeaFestival 2006	3
Spotlight On	4-5
Long Distance Charges	6
KCDHH Website	6
Never Too Old	7
Sorenson Communications .	8

Communicator

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Bobbie Beth's Tidbits...

*How shall I talk of the sea to the frog,
If he has never left his pond?
How shall I talk of the frost
to the bird of the summerland,
If he has never left the land of its birth?
How shall I talk of life with the sage,
If he is a prisoner of his doctrine?*

—Chung Tzu, Chinese Poet,
Fourth Century BC

Who Speaks for Me?

From the past comes words unlocking our minds. From 2,400 years ago. Is there any who speak for us but poets? Chung Tzu knew the heart of deaf persons and it is reflected in his poetic expression. Somehow he must have known that we would someday read his poetry and be reminded that we must leave our “pond” before we can begin to understand that there is much more in life to be added to our personal “pond,” our deaf culture.

In my search for a spoke-spersion for the deaf community I discovered several influencing factors in our lives that are worth noting.

Who speaks for the deaf and hard of hearing community? There is an almost secret entity that speaks for all of us. It is not one of us. It is not a college president. It is not a movie star. It is not an athlete. This entity is elusive. It is difficult to communicate with and very difficult with which to build rapport and understanding. We may agree or disagree, we may like it or not like it, but we must acknowledge it as the one that directs our destiny. It is one in which we have only begun to understand and to exert influence as a deaf

community. Some call it friend, some call it enemy. Some deny its existence. It is, nonetheless, our spokesperson.

Our friend or enemy, depending on perspective is called “Government.”

Government generally decides what we will do, how and where we will be educated, what new programs and services will be created, which ones will be canceled, which ones will be funded, and in some cases, even what our language will be like. It decides which residential schools will be closed, it decides who will go to mainstream classes, and it decides which social programs we will have and who will be the beneficiaries of those programs.

This system came to be when we were not watching. Let me tell you that again. This system came to be when we were not watching. However, now we have the opportunity of becoming our own watch dogs. We must prepare a means to systems change in the political venue. We must be participants in designing our own destiny.

I believe the future of the deaf and hard of hearing community in America was, and is, in the political arena. For many, government has become an impediment. It has, however, become a catalyst for change in the deaf and hard of hearing community. For our past, our present and our future.

Participation in the decision making process is a must. Deaf and hard of hearing persons must receive the same educational services available to everyone. The deaf and hard of hearing have the opportunity of filling positions within highest authority. We need to see more and more deaf and hard of hearing people in decision-making positions. Local participation in government and political affairs must happen. Deaf and hard of hearing people must be involved.

Bobbie Beth

Reprinted from publication “Who Speaks for the Deaf Community?
A Deaf American Monograph,” NAD Volume 47, 1997

Commission Members

Dr. Patricia Freeman, Chair
Member at Large Representative

Susan Brown
Kentucky Speech, Language &
Hearing Association Representative

Cristal Collins
Parent Representative

Nina Coyer
Kentucky Association of the Deaf
Representative

Virginia G. Fox
Education Cabinet Secretary

Shannon Grider
Kentucky Registry of Interpreters
for the Deaf Representative

Diane Haynes
Service Provider Representative

Mr. Mark Birdwhistell
Health and Family Services
Cabinet Secretary

Dodie Karr
Kentucky Association of the Deaf
Representative

Kevin Martin
Kentucky Association of the Deaf
President

Bob Stuckey
Self Help for the Hard of Hearing
Representative

Betty Timon
American Association of Retired
Persons Representative

Merle Williams
Alexander Graham Bell
Representative

Cole Zulauf
Kentucky Association of the Deaf
Representative

*The deadline to submit information
and articles for
the June 2006 edition of
the Communicator is May 2006.
All materials provided through
KCDHH are available in
accessible format upon request.*

Chairperson's Article...

Legislation: What does it do for me?



Patricia Freeman

When we think of legislation, we think of our government officials in Frankfort voting on laws, many of which have nothing to do with us or our communities. While this may seem true at first glance, oftentimes state agencies and legislators representing other interests introduce legislation that could impact those in the deaf and hard of hearing community. To ensure that the rights of the deaf and hard of hearing community are preserved and their unique needs are met, KCDHH actively participates in Kentucky's legislative sessions, pursuing bills that are favorable to the individuals we serve, and working diligently to track and analyze bills introduced by others that may impact our community. The 2006 Legislative session continues through March 28th and is followed by seven veto days; adjournment of the session occurs on April 11th. Although the status of bills may change by the end of the session, at the time of this writing legislation that KCDHH is pursuing or tracking includes:

Senate Bill 88, sponsored by Sen. Tom Buford and Sen. David Boswell; amends the terminology used within the specialized equipment distribution program. KCDHH is pursuing this bill which changes the name of the TDD Distribution Program to the "Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)". Due to the technological advances that have been made in the field of telecommunications, many new devices, designed for use by hard of hearing and speech impaired consumers, are available. The name change is needed to reflect the distribution of all the varied devices KCDHH provides to the consumers we serve, including those who are deaf, hard of hearing and speech-impaired.

Commission Staff

Bobbie Beth Scoggins, Ed.D.
Executive Director

John Barnes, Information Systems Supervisor
Sereta Campbell, Executive Staff Interpreter
Anita Dowd, Information Program Coordinator
Rowena Holloway, Program Coordinator
Kevin Kreutzer, Network Analyst I
Virginia L. Moore, State Interpreter Administrator
Vacant, Interpreter Relations Coordinator
Rachel Morgan, Executive Secretary
Dana Parker, Executive Staff Advisor
Sharon White, Document Processing Specialist III
Wilma Wright, Administrative Assistant

House Bill 468, sponsored by Rep. Susan Westrom, Rep. Charles Siler, and Rep. Tom McKee; amends the Public Service Commission (PSC) statute that authorizes the TDD program to receive one cent of the 10 cent surcharge currently collected on all residential telephone lines. KCDHH is pursuing this bill which requests the allocation to KCDHH be increased from one cent to two cents. The additional allocation is needed to allow for growth of the equipment distribution program and for expansion of outreach so more Kentuckians can be served. Some misunderstanding currently surrounds HB 468 - some individuals have stated that the reallocation represents a tax increase. This is not the case as it is merely a reallocation of funds already collected by the PSC. The ten-cent surcharge currently collected is used to support both the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) and the TDD program. The TRS funds have grown at a rate greater than needed and therefore rather than reduce the surcharge to prevent further fund accumulation, KCDHH has requested an additional one cent to be allocated to the TDD program. Rep. Westrom is working diligently to ensure that Legislators understand that this bill does not constitute a tax increase, for which the Governor has clearly stated would be vetoed. We thank her and all our supporting Legislators for their efforts on our behalf!

All of these bills will go through several more hearings before they are passed or die from lack of action. While we don't anticipate any problems with passage of SB 88 and HB 468, we invite you to follow the status of these bills (or any bill you may be interested in) by visiting the Legislative page at <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/06RS/record.htm>. To track the progress of SB88, go to "Bill status information", "Senate" then click on "SB 88" and it will give you an update on that bill; or check on HB 468 by going to "Bill status information" "House" and clicking on HB 468. Updates are performed nightly showing the days progress, or lack thereof, for each bill. You can also check the daily calendar to see when a bill will be presented before a committee by accessing "Front Page Information" and then clicking on "Committee Meetings" to see the schedule for the day. *If we feel a bill needs community support or testimony before a particular committee we will contact constituents to be present for the hearing. Be ready...we may need you!*

First DeaFestival Sponsor for 2006!

DeaFestival-Kentucky 2006 is coming July 1st to the Kentucky Center and Belvedere in Louisville. KCDHH and its partner non-profit foundation, Knowledge Center on Deafness (KCD), work to obtain sponsorships for DeaFestival so it can remain free to all who attend. These sponsorships are extremely important and DeaFestival could not continue without them.

BellSouth is the only sponsor who has supported DeaFestival EVERY year since it began in 1996. This year, as our *first* official sponsor, BellSouth donated \$5,000 to fund the technology program at DeaFestival which will showcase videoconferencing and has a “surprise” element that will be very interesting...but you have to attend to see what it is.

Nancy Jarrett, Manager Regulatory & External Affairs is the BellSouth representative pictured in the photo handing Bobbie Beth Scoggins, Executive Director of KCDHH the \$5,000 sponsorship.

Many thanks go out to Nancy and BellSouth as ongoing sponsors of DeaFestival and other KCDHH activities such as the TDD Distribution/ Telecommunications Access Program.



*Come join us in Louisville for DeaFestival 2006!
Don't miss the excitement!*

DeaFestival – Kentucky 2006 – Here We Come!

Check it out the newly revised DeaFestival website at www.deafestival.org. If you are interested in participating in DeaFestival, please complete an application on-line. If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive an OFFICIAL 2006 DeaFestival poster, complete the request form on the website. If you do not have access to the Internet contact KCDHH at 800-372-2907 and information will be mailed to you. **Don't forget we need volunteers!** *Let's make 2006 the BEST DeaFestival EVER !*

RESERVATIONS ANYONE??? The Galt House, in downtown Louisville near the Kentucky Center, is the official host hotel for DeaFestival-Kentucky 2006. Other hotels are also available in the area. To make reservations at the Galt House on-line go to www.galthouse.com and click “on-line reservations”. You MUST have the group ID code to make reservations on-line and purchases MUST be made with a credit card on-line. *The group ID code is 108052.* Entering the group ID code on-line by June 1st allows you to make reservations at the DeaFestival rates below:



West “Standard Room” Tower

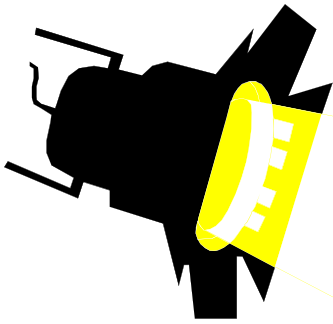
\$89.00 Single (per night)
\$99.00 Double
\$109.00 Triple
\$119.00 Quad

East “Executive Suite” Towers

\$129.00 Single (per night)
\$139.00 Double
\$149.00 Triple
\$159.00 Quad

State and local taxes are not included. Maximum of four persons per room.

You may also contact the Galt House directly at 1-800-THE GALT or 502-589-5200 to make reservations. You MUST mention that you are with the DeaFestival group when you contact the Galt House, and call prior to June 1st, to obtain the DeaFestival special rate.



SPOTLIGHT ON

Kentucky Client Assistance Program “KyCAP”

Gerry Gordon-Brown, Director
Vicki Staggs, Administrative Specialist

The Kentucky Client Assistance Program (“KyCAP”) is an independent program established to provide advice, assistance and information regarding benefits available from rehabilitation programs to individuals with disabilities.

KyCAP provides the following services:

- Gives information regarding benefits available from rehabilitation, independent living and other state and federal programs.
- Helps clients/applicants understand vocational rehabilitation eligibility requirements.
- Assists in improving communication between client and counselors.
- Investigates complaints and recommends solutions acceptable to both client and counselor.
- Makes referrals to other resources for services, if applicable.
- Assists the vocational rehabilitation agencies identify and remove program barriers.

All services of the Kentucky Client Assistance Program are free of charge and are provided on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, age, sex, color, creed, national origin or disability.

The Kentucky Client Assistance Program complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For more information, please contact the following:

Kentucky Client Assistance Program

209 Saint Clair Street, 5th Floor

Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: (502) 564-8035 (V&TTY)

Toll-free: (800) 633-6283 (V&TTY)

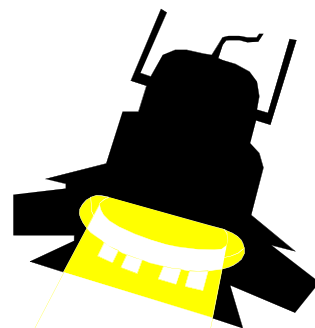
Fax: (502) 564-1566

Email contact: VickiL.Staggs@ky.gov

Website: <http://kycap.ky.gov>



SPOTLIGHT ON



Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Branch

Mission

To assist Kentuckians with disabilities to achieve suitable employment and independence.

The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation assists eligible individuals with disabilities achieve their employment goals. The office employs approximately 140 rehabilitation counselors in over 50 offices covering all 120 counties in Kentucky.

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) understands that people with hearing loss have different communication needs. Clear communication between the rehabilitation counselor and the person with hearing loss is the key to successful vocational rehabilitation services. Eligible individuals receive services to get a job, return to a job, keep a job, or get a better job.

OVR has staff trained to understand about the different problems people with hearing loss may have. Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf (RCDs) have sign language skills and serve persons who are deaf and use this type of communication. Communication Specialists are trained about devices and ways to serve individuals who are hard of hearing or late deafened. RCDs and Communication Specialists are also skilled in serving people who have vision problems in addition to a hearing loss or deafness.

Additionally, there are DeafBlind Specialists who help counselors serve someone who is deafblind.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Branch

209 Saint Clair Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: 1-800-372-7172 (V/TTY)
Fax: 502-564-6742
<http://ovr.ky.gov/index.htm>

Long Distance Charges NOW Apply to TRS and CapTel calls

Effective January 12, 2006, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) passed a ruling requiring long distance calls carried by Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) providers to be billed to the customer. Previously charges for long distance calls made through the CapTel Captioning Service were not passed on to the customer. However, per FCC requirements, billing is now passed on to the customer's telephone provider and billed to the customer's local telephone number. This ruling affects both regular TRS and CapTel calls.

You will see the following message on the display screen of your CapTel telephone after January 12th, notifying you that the call is being billed you your telephone number as a toll call.

CapTel CA# 1234
Dialing 6082385400
NEW FCC RULES
Long distance calls
will now be billed

If you wish to specify a preferred carrier a CapTel Database Profile can be set up by CapTel Customer Service. Charges incurred will appear on your regular monthly telephone bill noting the charge is from the carrier you choose or your default carrier if none was chosen. The Profile request form can be obtained by contacting CapTel customer service at <http://www.captionedtelephone.com/contact-us.phtml>

"My two line CapTel that my employer purchased for my office has been installed. I have enjoyed it greatly and have sent in an application for one for my home as well. Thank you greatly for suggesting it as it breaks down the majority of my previous phone barriers with hearing callers. The two line suggestion is ideal as I don't have to explain to any callers how to use relay and it is much more user-friendly. It is ideal for an office setting in my case. I do wonder if they will be able to adapt the technology further. It's a great improvement over traditional relay, and I hope the voice recognition technology continues to improve in speed and accuracy."

— Kentucky CapTel User

You can also use your CapTel with a calling card. You can purchase a card at any discount store that sells calling cards with various minute allowances. To make a CapTel call using a calling card, follow this procedure:

- 1) Dial the calling card's 800 number using your CapTel.
- 2) CapTel service connects you to the calling card's 800 number.
- 3) Input calling card information directly as instructed on the telephone keypad.
- 4) You will then be instructed to input the number you wish to connect to.
- 5) Your conversation will be paid for via the calling card.

Exception: Calling an 800 calling card number, then dialing our 800 CapTel Service number (Voice in or CapTel to CapTel). You may receive a message saying

your call cannot be completed as dialed because it recognizes there is no billing needed for an 800 to 800 number. In this case, you should dial the call without the card, or try dialing the Captioning Service first, then the calling card, and then the number you are calling.



KCDHH Website... NEW and IMPROVED

KCDHH has recently revised its entire website. If you have an announcement, event or job opening you would like posted to the Bulletin Board, please contact us at www.kcdhh.gov or 800-372-2907. We hope that you find the website to be an immense resource of information pertaining to hearing loss, accessibility, education and technology. Our goal is to provide timely information that empowers our community to make more informed decisions regarding their health and well being. Please visit the new website and send us your feedback.

*We look forward to
serving each of you!*

KY Association for the DeafBlind Retreat

April 7th-9th

KY Leadership Center
Faubush, KY

For more information contact

Janis Friend:

(502) 564-4440 (V/T)

JanisK.Friend@ky.gov

**NAD 125TH
ANNIVERSARY
TRI-STATE GALA**
Saturday, April 29, 2006
Millennium Hotel Cincinnati
5:00-7:00 PM
Cash Bar & Art Auction
7:00-8:00 PM Dinner
8:00-10:00 PM Program

Evening Attire Encouraged

For more information:

<http://www.nad.org/tristategala>

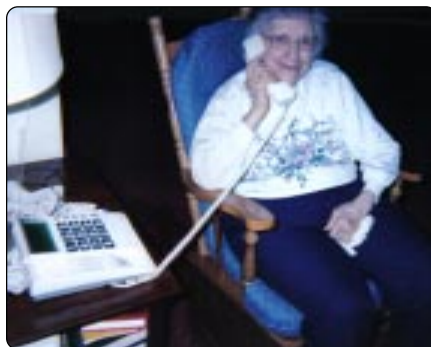
Never too old to learn new tricks...

Louise sat in her living room as her son allowed Drew Weldon from Hamilton Relay and Virginia Moore from KCDHH into her home. Louise had requested an amplified phone from the TDD Distribution/TAP Program, however she and her family did not know which amplified phone would work best for her. Louise had consulted her audiologist but still wanted to see how the CapTel and several other amplified phones worked prior to selecting her equipment.

Had we (Drew and Virginia) been asked her age we would have guessed mid to late 70's and we would have been wrong! Louise is 98 years young and continues to be independent, still drives her own car and makes greeting cards on her computer for her family and various shut-ins she knows. During the holidays, she sent out 98 Christmas cards, all made personally on her own computer. She even installed

the greeting card software on her computer herself!

This remarkably independent woman has three children, 8 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. They call her "Mimi" and she is so excited at the thought of being able to chat with each one of them on her new telephone. Louise uses hearing aids but said she would probably not need them



with the new phone as it amplifies up to a 35db loss, which she anticipates will allow her to hear quite well, and it provides captions of the conversation.

Her two sons, who were present for the demonstration, were very pleased with her selection of the CapTel. They plan to install flashers and loud ringers throughout the house so they can ensure reaching their very active mother regardless of what project she is involved in!

If YOU, your family, or someone you know might benefit from an amplified phone, or other piece of equipment distributed by the TDD/TAP program, please contact us at www.kcdhh.gov and an application will be mailed to your home. Equipment is available for demonstration at the KCDHH office in Frankfort. Please call 800-372-2907 (V/T) to schedule an appointment to test the equipment.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing
Health Fair Committee [DHFC]
Proudly Presents...

Sue Thomas

Her life experience led
to the TV Series
"Sue Thomas F. B. Eye"

May 6, 2006

Cincinnati State Technical
and Community College
New Conference Center
3520 Central Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45223

For more information contact:

Betty Rosenberger
University Hospital
513-584-3785 TTY/FAX
Betty Rosenberger
513-584-5052 Voice 234
Goodman ML 0707
Rosenbbm@Healthall.com
Cincinnati, OH 45219-0707

PEPNet Announces the PEPNet 2006 Conference "Roots & Wings"

The Postsecondary
Education Programs Network
(PEPNet) will hold its biennial
conference "Roots & Wings,"
on April 5-8, 2006, in
Louisville, Kentucky, at the
Hyatt Regency hotel. The
conference is sponsored by
the four Regional Centers on
Postsecondary Education for
Individuals who are Deaf and
Hard of Hearing, which are
funded by U.S. Department
of Education, Office of
Special Education &
Rehabilitative Services.

For more information:
www.pepnet.org

**Commission on the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing**
632 Versailles Road
Frankfort, KY 40601
#149

An agency of the Kentucky Education Cabinet

Sorenson Communications to Allow Users to Call Interpreters of Other Video Relay Service Providers

Sorenson Communications, the industry leading provider of services and technology for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, today announced plans to allow the users of its videophones to call not only Sorenson VRS interpreters but also the interpreters of other Video Relay Service (VRS) providers. By no later than July 1st, all users of the Sorenson videophone will be able to call a hearing person using sign language through the interpreters of any other VRS provider.

“We understand that members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community want the opportunity to use Sorenson videophones to reach the interpreters of other VRS providers,” said Pat Nola, President and CEO of Sorenson Communications. “We are going to unbundle our network so that our customers will be able to use our high-end technology to connect to other VRS providers if they choose. Although we continue to believe that our interpreters cannot be beat for service and quality, we want to meet the requests for easier access to other VRS interpreters. On this and other matters I encourage our users to express their wishes and to contact me directly at patrick.nola@sorenson.com.”

“I have recently joined Sorenson Communications. My specific job is to help develop new ways to serve the deaf community,” said Ron Burdett, Vice President of Community Relations. “I hope this unbundling decision will be the first of many steps to reach the goal of providing functionally equivalent telecommunications service to 100% of the deaf community. I encourage Sorenson customers to contact me at ron.burdett@sorenson.com”

Sorenson Communications is honored to provide this public service, enabling deaf to hearing communication through high quality integrated service of videophones and interpreters. The company remains committed to learning from its users about features and functionality to improve this service.
